

SN 10/816,208

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Schedule B
Response of October 18, 2005

Response to Examiner's Office Action of June 28, 2005. Please amend the disclosure to read as follows:

[0046] All bat embodiments of the present invention as shown in Fig. 2 through 13 include a core shaft 4 **of rigid, unitary, singular construction** with a length 5 substantially that of the overall bat length 1. This shaft may, however, extend for less than the full length of the bat. Most such bats have a separate barrel 12 which contacts the shaft 4 at two or more distinct contact locations. The bat has a proximal end 2 and a distal end 3. The shaft has a proximal end 10, a distal end 11 with a handle portion 9 starting at the shaft proximal end 10, and a shaft cross-section 8 (circular or otherwise) which is preferably, but not necessarily, constant over the shaft length 5. The barrel 12 has a length 13 or 36, a diameter 14, a proximal portion 15 with a proximal end 17 and a distal portion 16 with a distal end 18. Most embodiments (Fig. 2 through 9) have a gap between the core shaft 4 and the barrel 12 which occupies the separation 22 between the core shaft 4 and barrel 12. The handle portion 9 may have a cross-section which is circular Fig. 2A, ovoid Fig. 2B, elliptical Fig. 2C, or triangular Fig. 2D as well as other forms.

[0051] Bats of the present invention having separate barrels 12 and separate core shafts 4 **of rigid, unitary, singular construction**, with handle portions 9 starting at the proximal shaft end 10, that act independently of each other. Thus, the core shaft 4 is ideally designed with relatively high longitudinal bending stiffness, and the barrel 12 is separately designed with relatively low radial stiffness. The improved barrel 12 radial stiffness achievable in bats of the present invention, over prior art bats, increases the

trampoline effect which increases bat performance in bat embodiments of the present invention.